

MARVEL

LEGACY

LETHAL PROTECTOR PART 1

155



**COSTA
BAGLEY
DELL
ALMARA**

VENOM[®]



YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE. WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS ACTUALLY AN AGGRESSIVE LIVING ORGANISM, HE REJECTED IT. BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE AND NOW GRANTS WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO HIS: WALL-CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIOORGANIC WEBBING AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND BECOME INVISIBLE, TURNING THEM INTO...

VENOM



EDDIE BROCK AND THE VENOM SYMBIOTE HAVE REUNITED, BUT THE SYMBIOTE IS NOT WELL. AFTER SPENDING SOME TIME BONDED WITH AN ABUSIVE HOST, IT BEGAN LASHING OUT AT INNOCENT PEOPLE IT MISTAKENLY PERCEIVED AS THREATS.

EDDIE STRUCK A DEAL WITH LIZ ALLAN, C.E.O. OF ALCHEMAX, TO HELP HIS AILING SYMBIOTE. IN EXCHANGE FOR BURYING THE COMPANY'S CONNECTION TO A COMMUNITY OF DINOSAURS LIVING IN THE SEWERS, ASTRO-BIOLOGIST DR. STEVE WOULD PROVIDE EDDIE WITH MEDICINE TO KEEP VENOM FROM LASHING OUT.

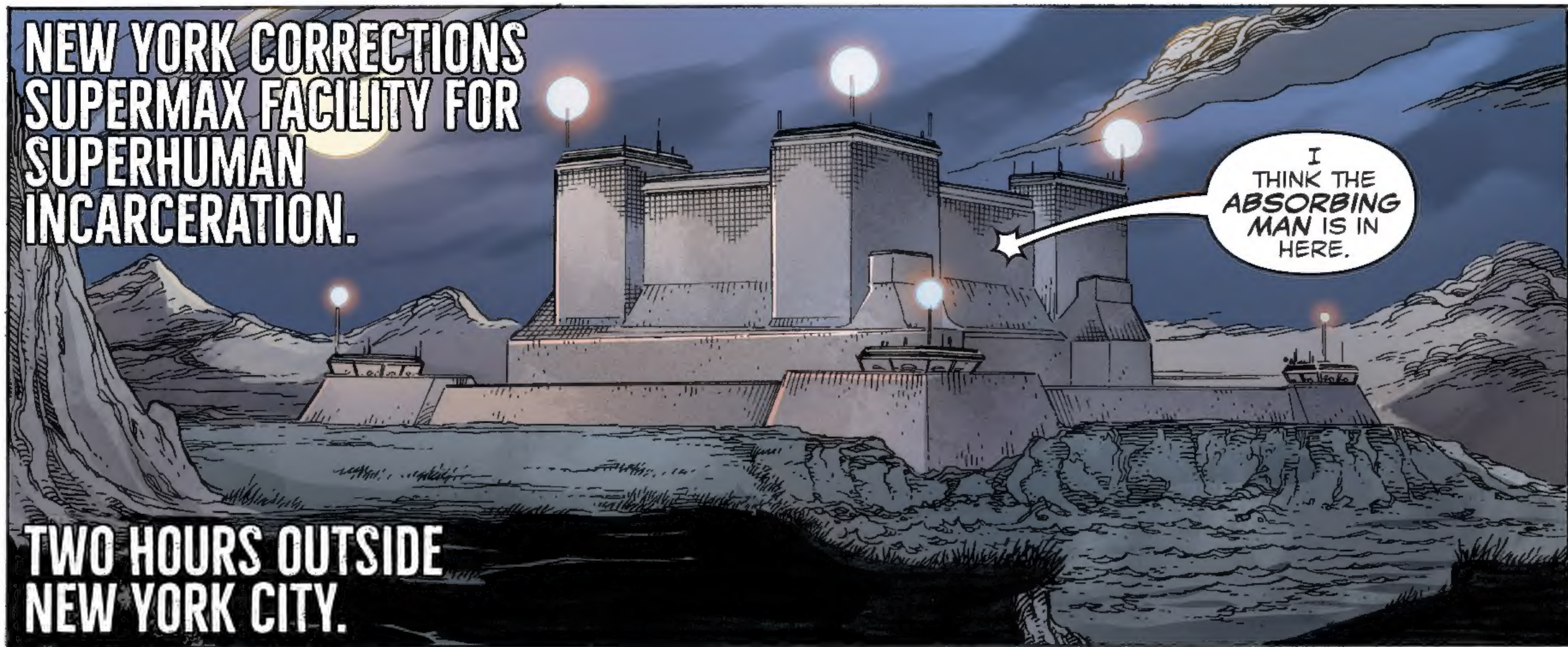
AFTER OVERTHROWING THE TYRANNICAL LEADER OF THE DINOSAUR COMMUNITY, EDDIE REALIZED THAT THE CREATURES WERE ACTUALLY PEACEFUL, AND COULD CONTINUE TO LIVE, UNDISTURBED, SO LONG AS THEY DID NOT THREATEN THE WORLD ABOVE.

MIKE COSTA WRITER **MARK BAGLEY** PENCILER **JOHN DELL** INKER **DONO SÁNCHEZ-ALMARA** COLORIST

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NEW YORK CORRECTIONS
SUPERMAX FACILITY FOR
SUPERHUMAN
INCARCERATION.

TWO HOURS OUTSIDE
NEW YORK CITY.

I
THINK THE
ABSORBING
MAN IS IN
HERE.



COME ON.
I'M GONNA GO
TOE-TO-TOE WITH THE
ABSORBING MAN?
THAT GUY FOUGHT
THOR.



OKAY, SO
WHAT ABOUT RYAN
MARKINSON?

RYAN
WHO?

RYAN
MARKINSON.
I THINK HE
WAS ONE OF THE
HOBGOBLINS
FOR FIVE
MINUTES.



IS
THERE A
GAS LEAK IN
HERE? WHAT'S THE
POINT IF IT'S SOME
LOSER NOBODY'S
EVER EVEN
HEARD
OF?



OKAY. SO
HE'S GOTTA
BE A SCARY GUY
PEOPLE KNOW, BUT
WITH **NO** POWERS
HERE ON THE
INSIDE.

I THINK
I KNOW
EXACTLY
WHO WE
WANT.

LEE
PRICE.

YOU
USED TO BE
VENOM.





ALLEGEDLY.

I
HAVEN'T
HAD MY DAY
IN COURT
YET.



I WOULDN'T
SWEAT THAT TOO
MUCH.

I HEARD
YOU WERE TRYING
TO BRING DOWN THE
BLACK CAT AND TAKE
OVER HER RACKETS.
AND NOW YOU'RE
IN **HERE**.



YUP. IN
HERE. JUST
LIKE YOU.

OH,
TOUGH
GUY. YOU EAT BY
YOURSELF, PEOPLE
LEAVE YOU ALONE...
PEOPLE ARE
AFRAID OF
YOU.



THE GUARD
OUTSIDE. DID YOU
PAY HIM, OR KILL
HIM?

PEOPLE
LIKE HIM, WE
PAY. PEOPLE
LIKE **YOU**, THOUGH...
WELL, YOU SHOULD
TAKE THIS AS A
COMPLIMENT.



YOU CAN'T
EVEN LET ME
HAVE MY **LAST**
MEAL IN
PEACE?





"AND NEITHER
WILL **ANYBODY**
ELSE."

THANKS
FOR YOUR
HELP WITH **LIL'**
MARCO LAST
WEEK.

YOU SHOULD
MOVE THAT IDIOT
OFF THE CORNER
AND MAKE HIM A
LOOKOUT OR
SOMETHING.

NEXT TIME,
IT MIGHT NOT
BE **ME** TAKING
THE CALL, AND
THAT'S A **LOT**
MORE PAPER-
WORK.



I HANDLE
MY BUSINESS.
YOU DO WHAT
I **PAY** YOU
TO DO.

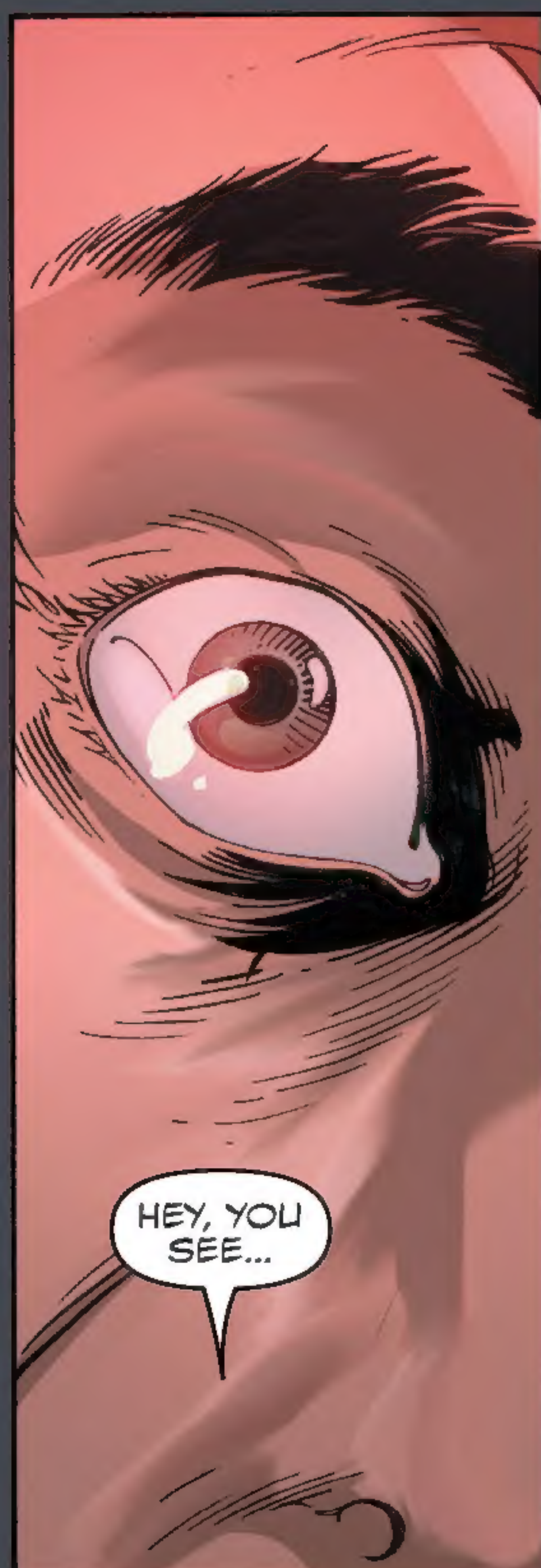
SPEAKING OF
WHICH...MY NEXT-
DOOR NEIGHBOR
IS HAVING SOME KIND
OF MIDLIFE CRISIS AND
GOT A **DRUM KIT** IN HIS
GARAGE. HE SPENDS ALL
WEEKEND PRETENDING HE'S
KEITH MOON. I NEED
YOU TO COME BY THIS
WEEKEND AND TELL
HIM TO **KEEP IT**
DOWN.

YOU'RE
KIDDING,
RIGHT?

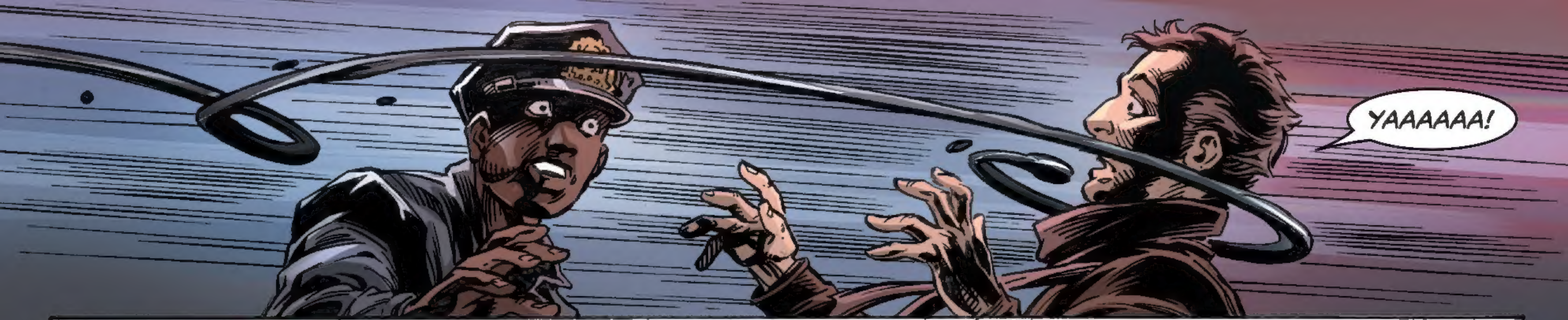
YOU RUN A
CREW OF **ARMED**
THUGS AND YOU NEED ME
TO FILE AN OFFICIAL **NOISE**
COMPLAINT ON YOUR
NEIGHBOR?

WHAT?
YOU WANT
ME TO GO OVER
AND FLASH MY
PIECE?

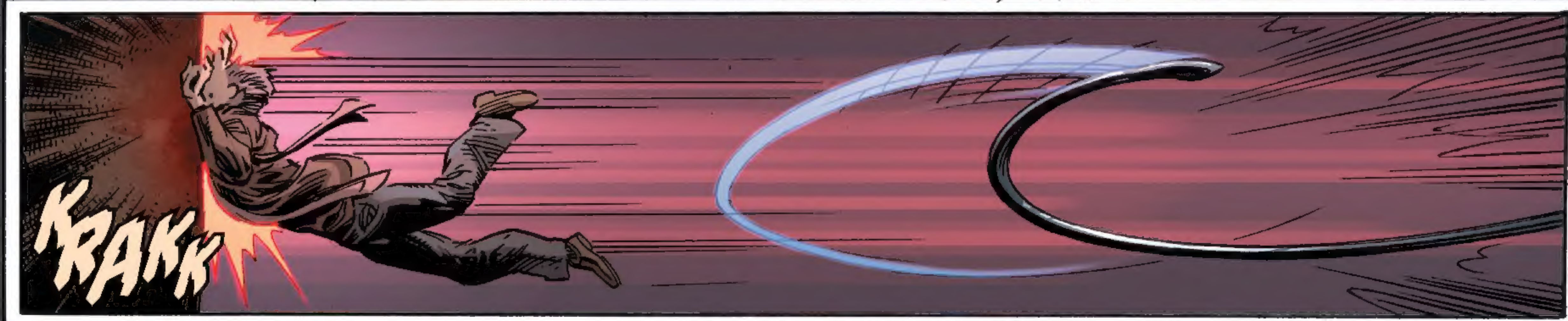
I LIVE IN
QUEENS WITH
MY **KIDS**. THE
GUY'S A **DENTIST**.
I PAY YOU **5K** A
MONTH
AND--



HEY, YOU
SEE...



YAAAAAA!



HAVING
A NICE NIGHT,
OFFICER?



Y-YOU'RE
VENOM,
RIGHT?

LOOK,
I CAN HELP
YOU. WE'RE ON THE
SAME SIDE
HERE.

SURE, KILL
THAT GUY. HE'S
SCUM.

THEN YOU
AND I CAN WORK
OUT A DEAL. I FEED
YOU INFORMATION--
WHAT OPERATIONS ARE
VULNERABLE, WHAT
GUYS TO HIT...



...FEED YOU
INFORMATION IF
AN INVESTIGATION
IS CLOSING IN--
GAKK!

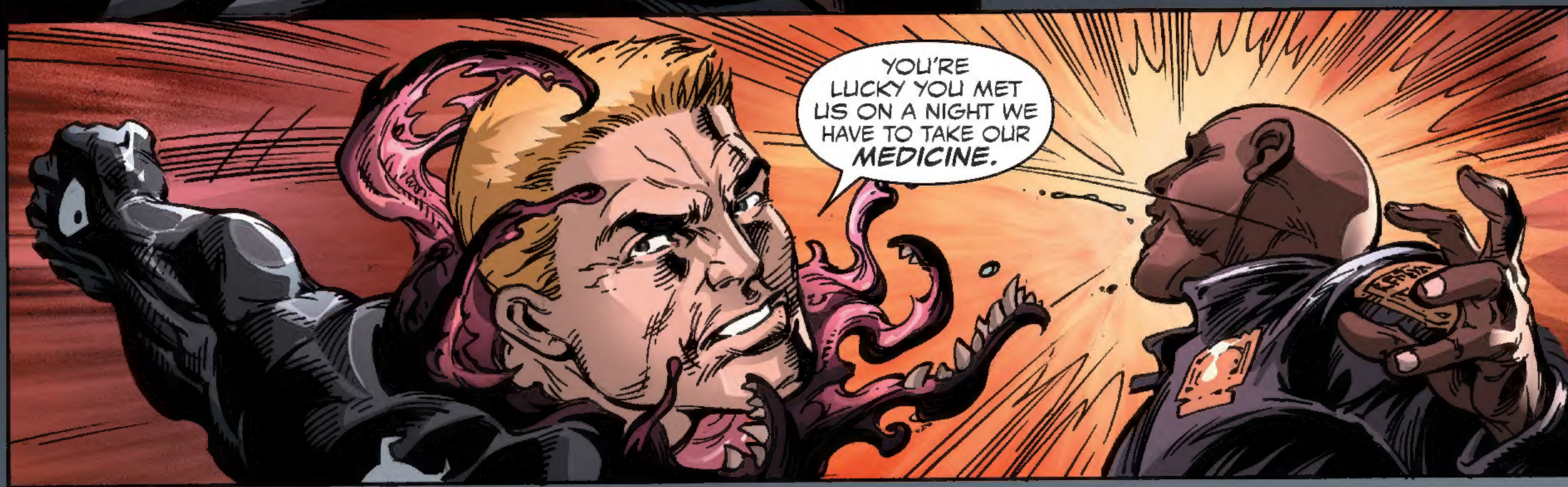
THAT
MAN PEDDLES IN
DRUGS AND DEATH,
BUT YOU...YOU'RE
WORSE.

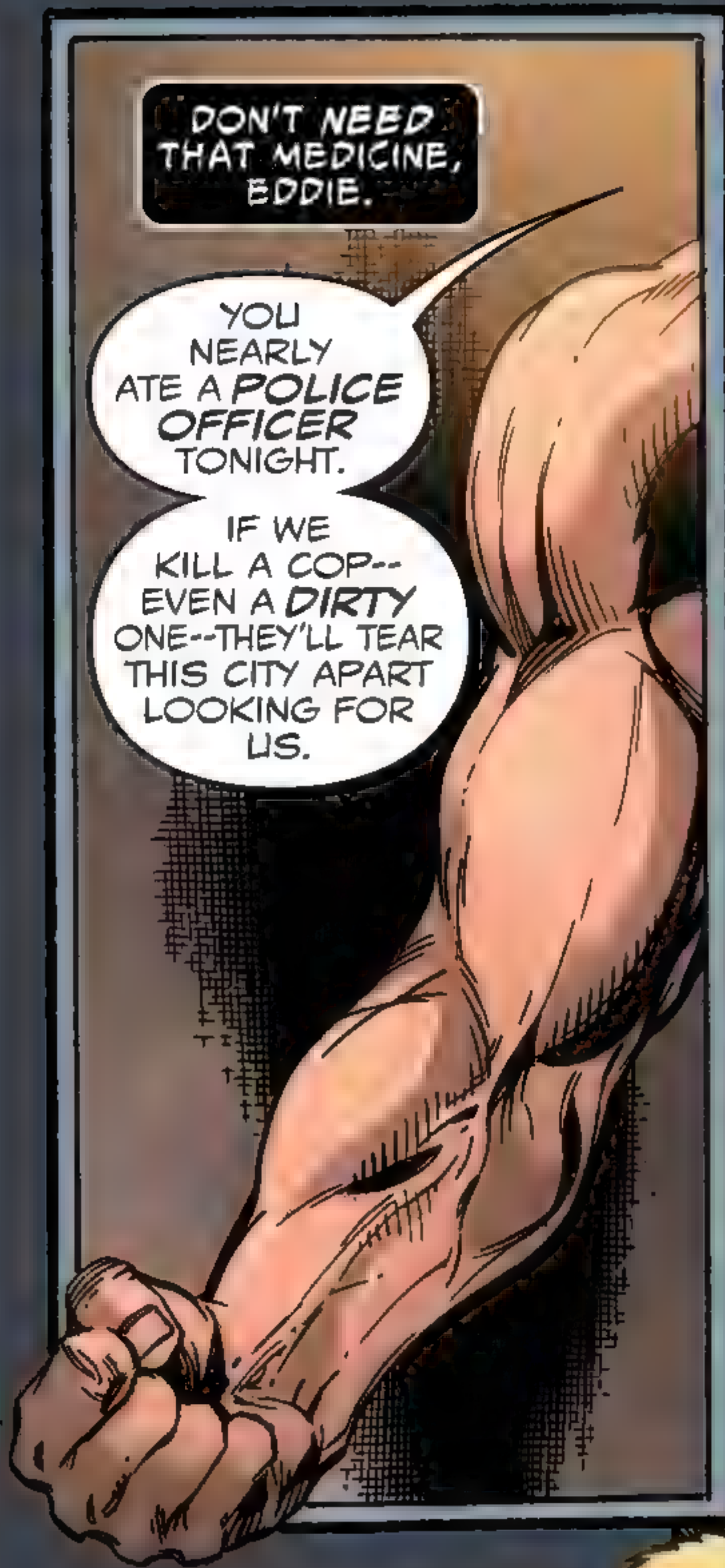


YOU'VE SWORN TO PROTECT AND
SERVE. BUT YOU'VE BETRAYED
THAT OATH.

YOUR
PUNISHMENT MUST BE
SPECIAL...







DON'T NEED
THAT MEDICINE,
EDDIE.

YOU
NEARLY
ATE A POLICE
OFFICER
TONIGHT.

IF WE
KILL A COP--
EVEN A DIRTY
ONE--THEY'LL TEAR
THIS CITY APART
LOOKING FOR
US.



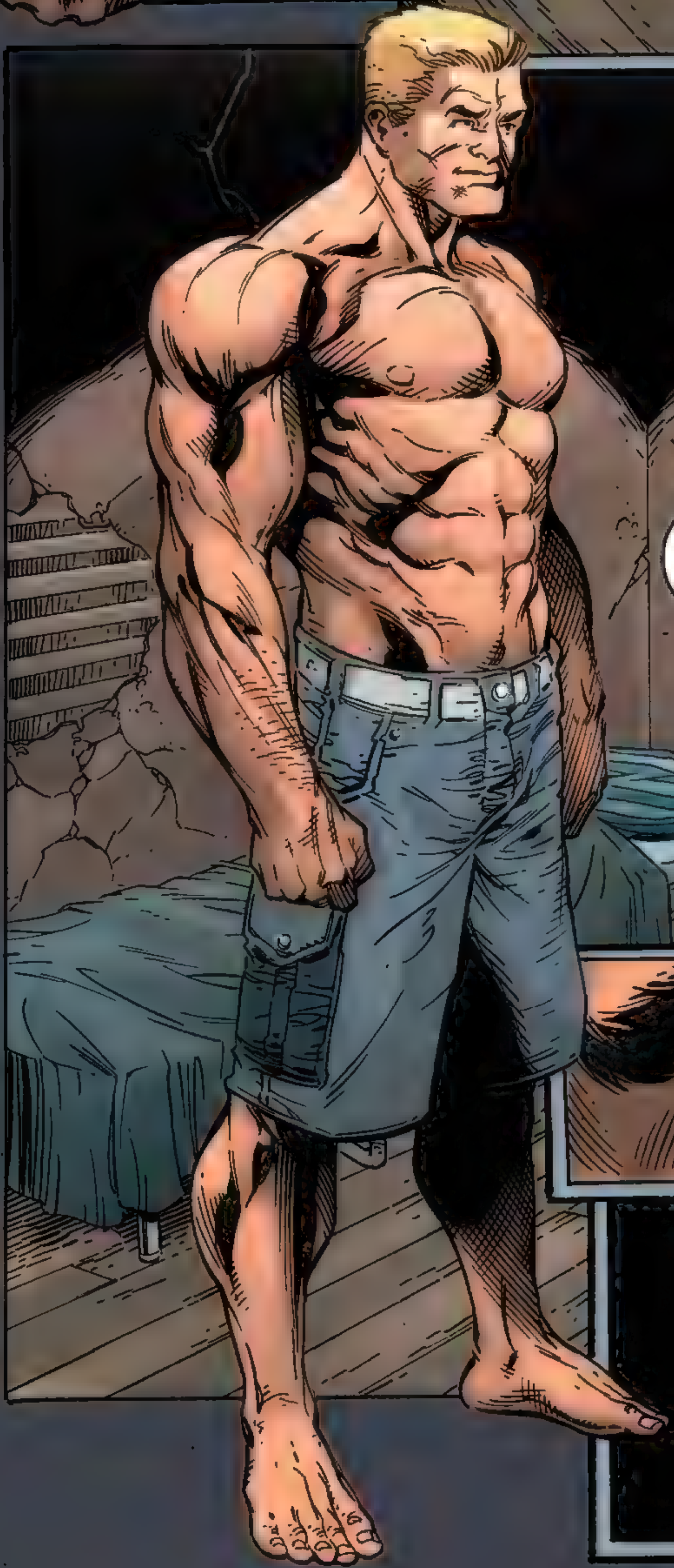
THIS
MEDICINE
FROM LIZ ALLAN AT
ALCHEMAX KEEPS
YOU CALM, THAT'S
ALL.



THIS HELPS
HEAL YOUR
MIND.

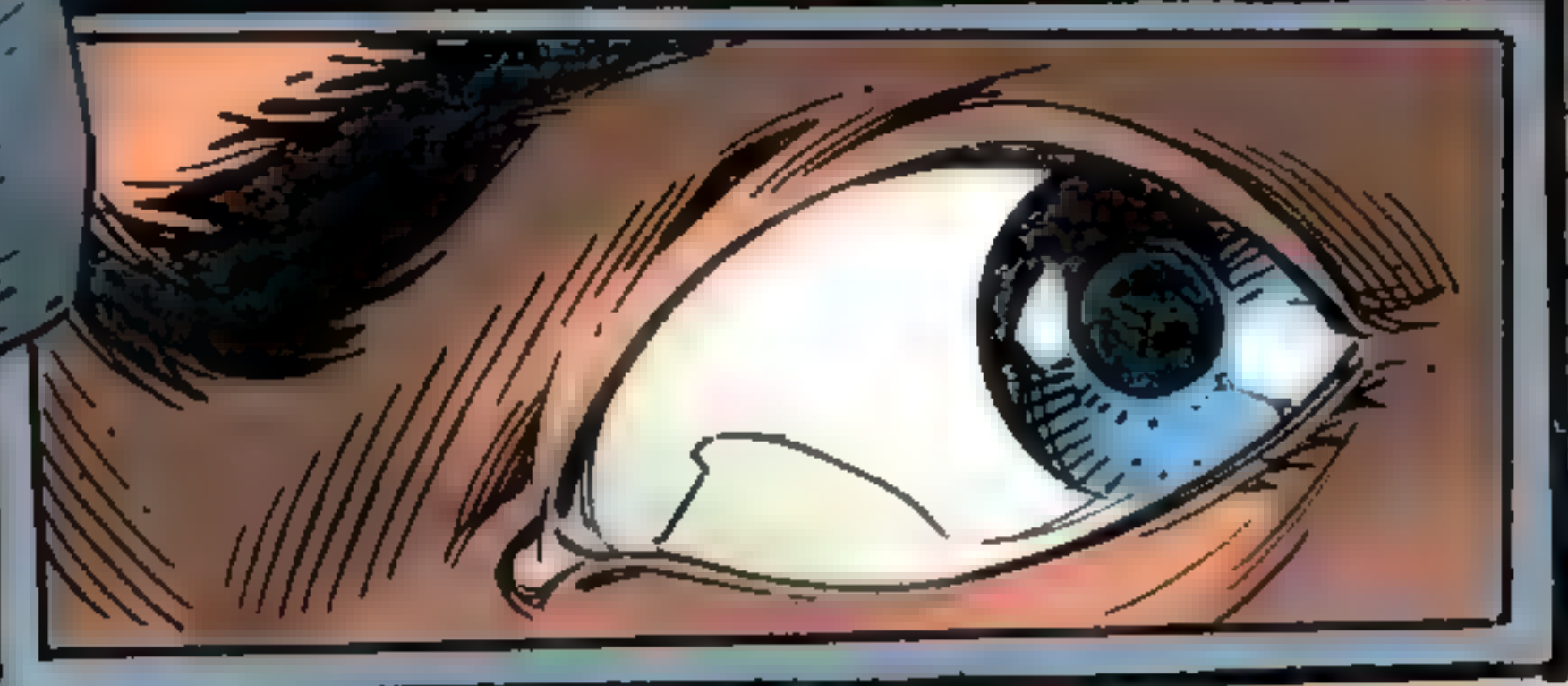
PROBLEM IS
NOT MIND,
EDDIE. IS
FOOD.

MUST EAT,
EDDIE. MUST
EAT.



I KNOW, MY
LOVE. I'VE BEEN
RELYING ON YOUR
METABOLISM
TOO MUCH.

WE NEED
TO EAT MORE
REGULARLY. WE
NEED BETTER
SHELTER.



BUT I
HAVE A WAY
TO GET IT.



HOW COME I'VE NEVER HEARD OF YOU BEFORE MR....SYM?



I...PREFER TO WRITE UNDER **PSEUDONYMS**. IT'S A SECURITY ISSUE MANY OTHER PAPERS DON'T APPROVE OF, BUT I UNDERSTOOD IT WOULDN'T BE A **PROBLEM** HERE.

THAT'S **TRUE**, IT'S **NOT** A PROBLEM. **MOST** OF OUR WRITERS DON'T USE THEIR REAL NAMES, THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY FOR **SECURITY** REASONS...



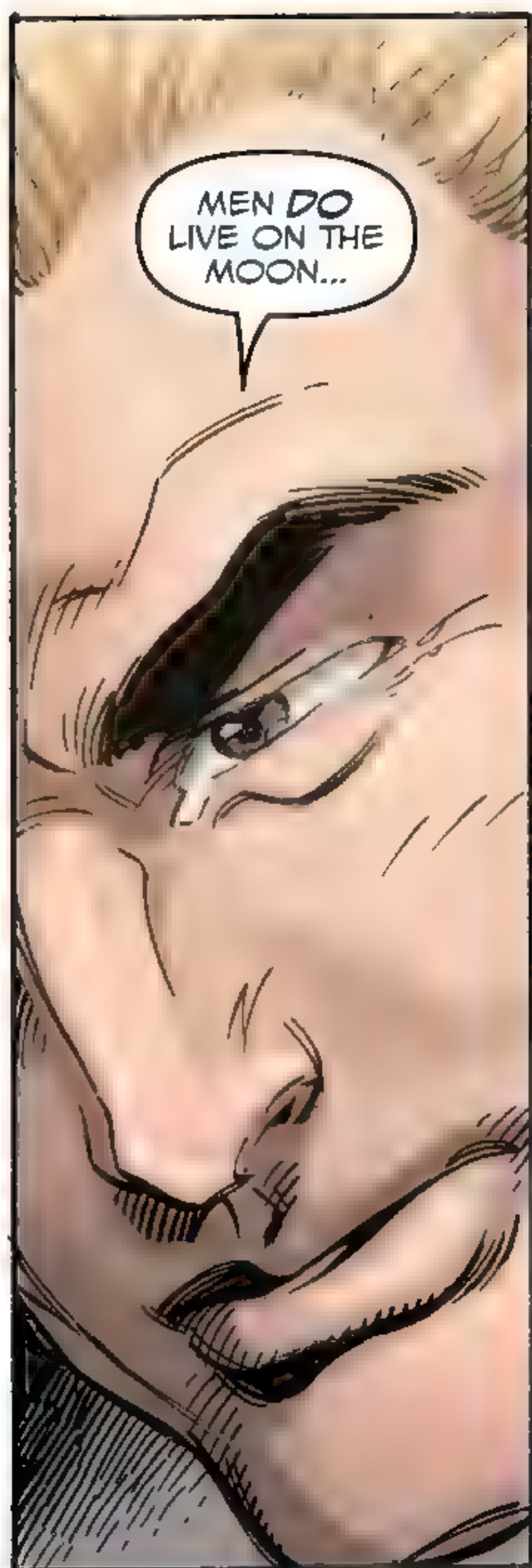
CORRUPTION IN THE NYPD...AN EXPOSURE OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY THE FBI...

WHILE I ADMIRE YOUR TENACITY, THIS ISN'T EXACTLY MATERIAL THAT MY NEW DIVISION OF **THE FACT CHANNEL** HAS BEEN ASKED TO REPORT.



IF YOU'VE WORKED IN PRINT BEFORE, YOU KNOW THE DRILL.

ELVIS BACK FROM THE DEAD. MEN LIVING ON THE MOON. **THAT** KIND OF THING.



MEN DO
LIVE ON THE
MOON...



THAT'S THE
SPIRIT! WRITE THAT
UP WITH THE TYPE OF
SKILL YOU BROUGHT
TO THIS MATERIAL,
AND WE CAN BE
IN BUSINESS.



YOU
MUST...

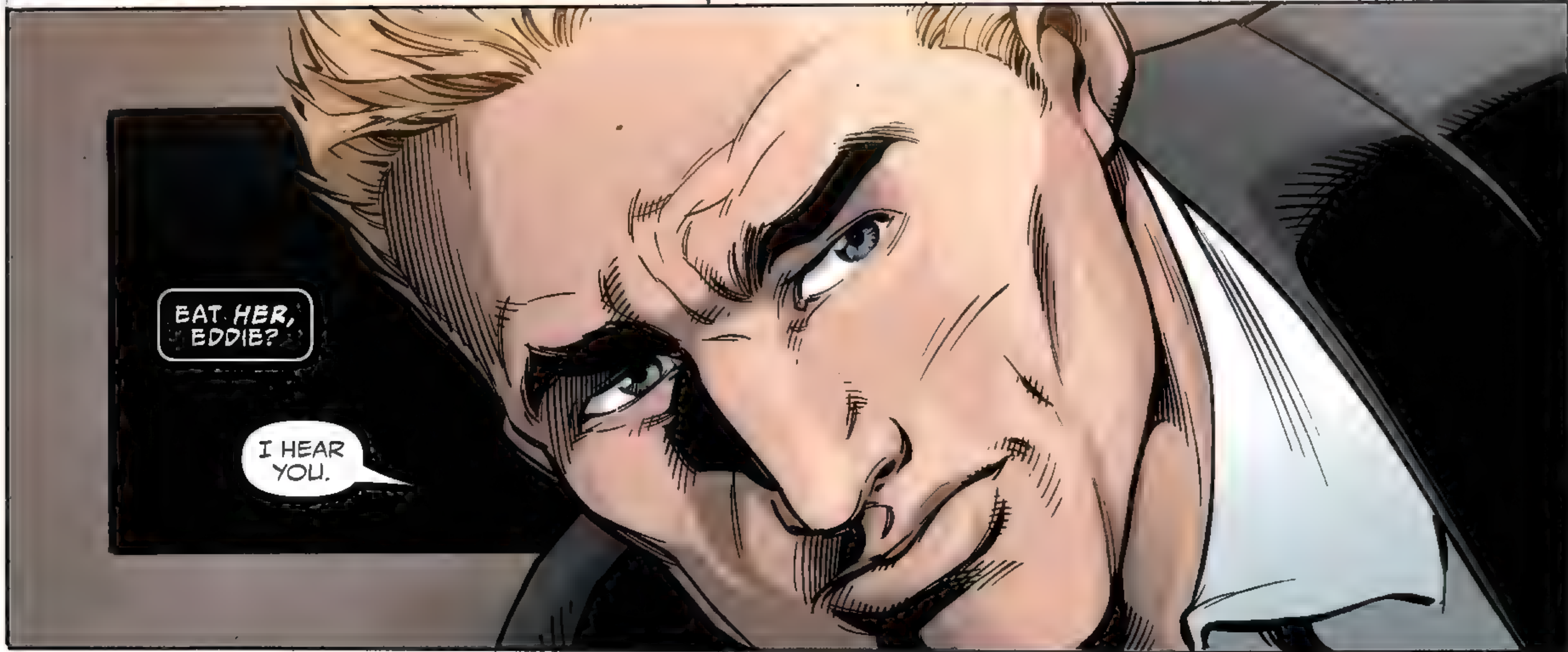
YOU'RE THE
EDITOR FOR A
STATION CALLED
THE FACT CHANNEL.
JOURNALISM CAN BE
SUCH A POWERFUL TOOL
FOR **JUSTICE**. SO MUCH
GOOD HAS BEEN DONE
BY REPORTING. WE
CAN DO **GOOD**
HERE!



I AM THE
EDITOR OF A
DIVISION OF THE
FACT CHANNEL,
MR. SYM.

THE GOOD
MY CONTENT DOES
IS STAYING ON-BRAND
SO SALES REMAIN STEADY,
AND MY WRITERS CAN
TAKE HOME REAL
PAYCHECKS.

COME
BACK TO ME
WITH SOMETHING I
CAN **USE**, AND YOU
CAN BE ONE OF
THEM.



EAT HER,
EDDIE?

I HEAR
YOU.

WHY IN THE
SEWER, EDDIE?

MORE DANGER DOWN
HERE? MORE CHANCES
TO BE A HERO?

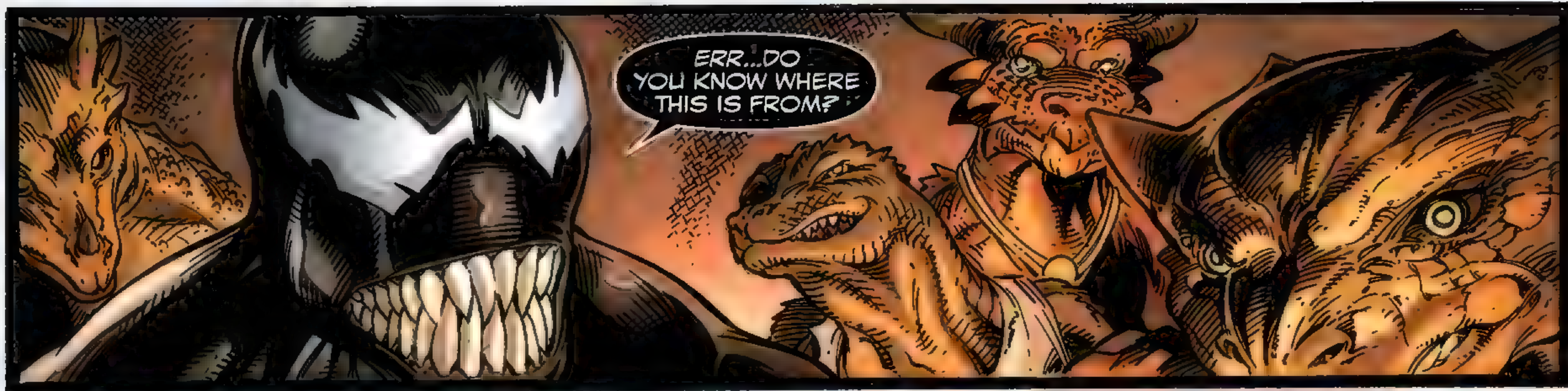
DINOSAURS.
THE UNDERGROUND
VILLAGE DOWN HERE...
WE HELPED THEM.
THEY OWE US.

SINCE THEY'RE
DINOSAUR PEOPLE,
I FIGURE THEY'LL HAVE
SOMETHING BLOODY
YOU CAN EAT, AND WE WON'T
HAVE TO STEAL OR KILL
A NEWSPAPER
EDITOR.

LOOK--
IT'S THE
SAVIOR!

THE
SAVIOR HAS
RETURNED!













THESE
WRETCHED CREATURES ARE
PART OF A **CIVILIZATION**, JUST
LIKE **YOURS**. YOU CAN'T SIMPLY
PREY UPON THEM. THEY
ARE **INNOCENT**.



WE MUST
LET THEM **BURY**
THEIR DEAD.



THE BIG ONE
IS TOO LARGE
TO BE REMOVED,
BUT, **PLEASE**, TAKE
YOUR FALLEN
BROTHER.

WE
APOLOGIZE,
FRIENDS. THIS WAS
A **HORRIBLE**
MISTAKE.



PLEASE,
GO IN
PEACE.

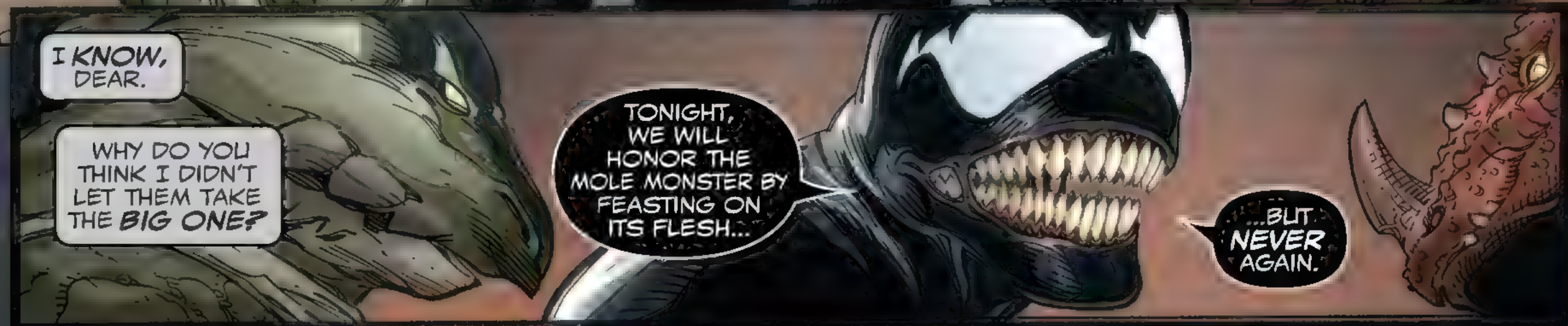


DO
YOU THINK THEY
UNDERSTOOD?

DEFINITELY
NOT.

THIS IS
ONE OF THE
MOST **BIZARRE**
THINGS THAT'S EVER
HAPPENED TO ME
AT DINNER.

NEVER GOT ANY
MEAT, EDDIE.



I KNOW,
DEAR.

WHY DO YOU
THINK I DIDN'T
LET THEM TAKE
THE **BIG ONE**?

TONIGHT,
WE WILL
HONOR THE
MOLE MONSTER BY
FEASTING ON
ITS FLESH...

BUT
NEVER
AGAIN.



AND WHAT DO YOU HAVE FOR ME **THIS** WEEK, DIMITRI?

WELL, SIR, YOUR PAPERS HAVE BEEN FLOWN IN FROM NEW YORK.



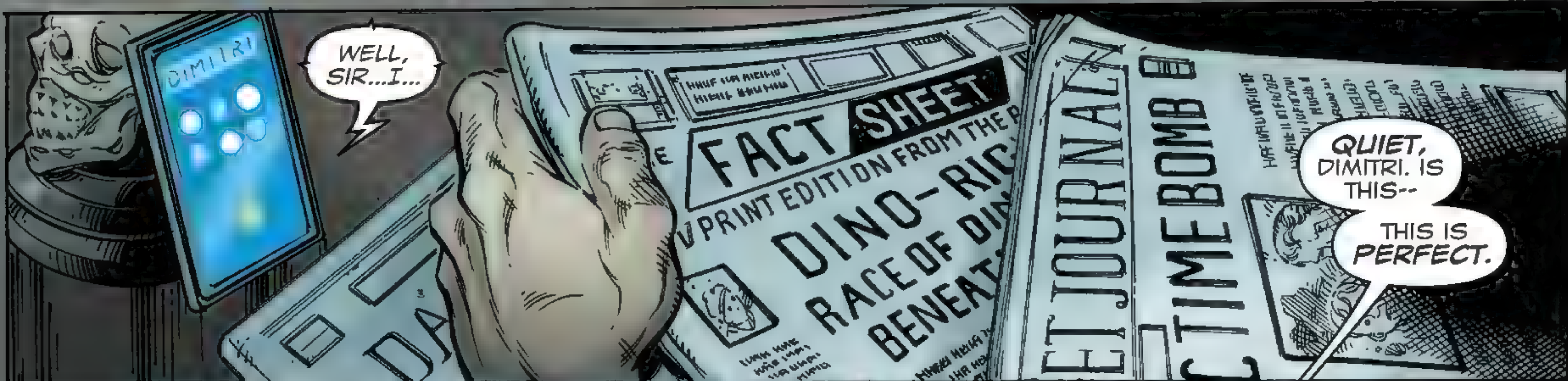
YES, I CAN SEE THAT.

ALSO, THE HAGUE IS CONTINUING TO PRESS THE CASE WITH THAT BUSINESS ABOUT NOT HAVING A **PERMIT** LAST YEAR IN THE SAVAGE LAND.



YOU MISUNDERSTAND ME, DIMITRI.

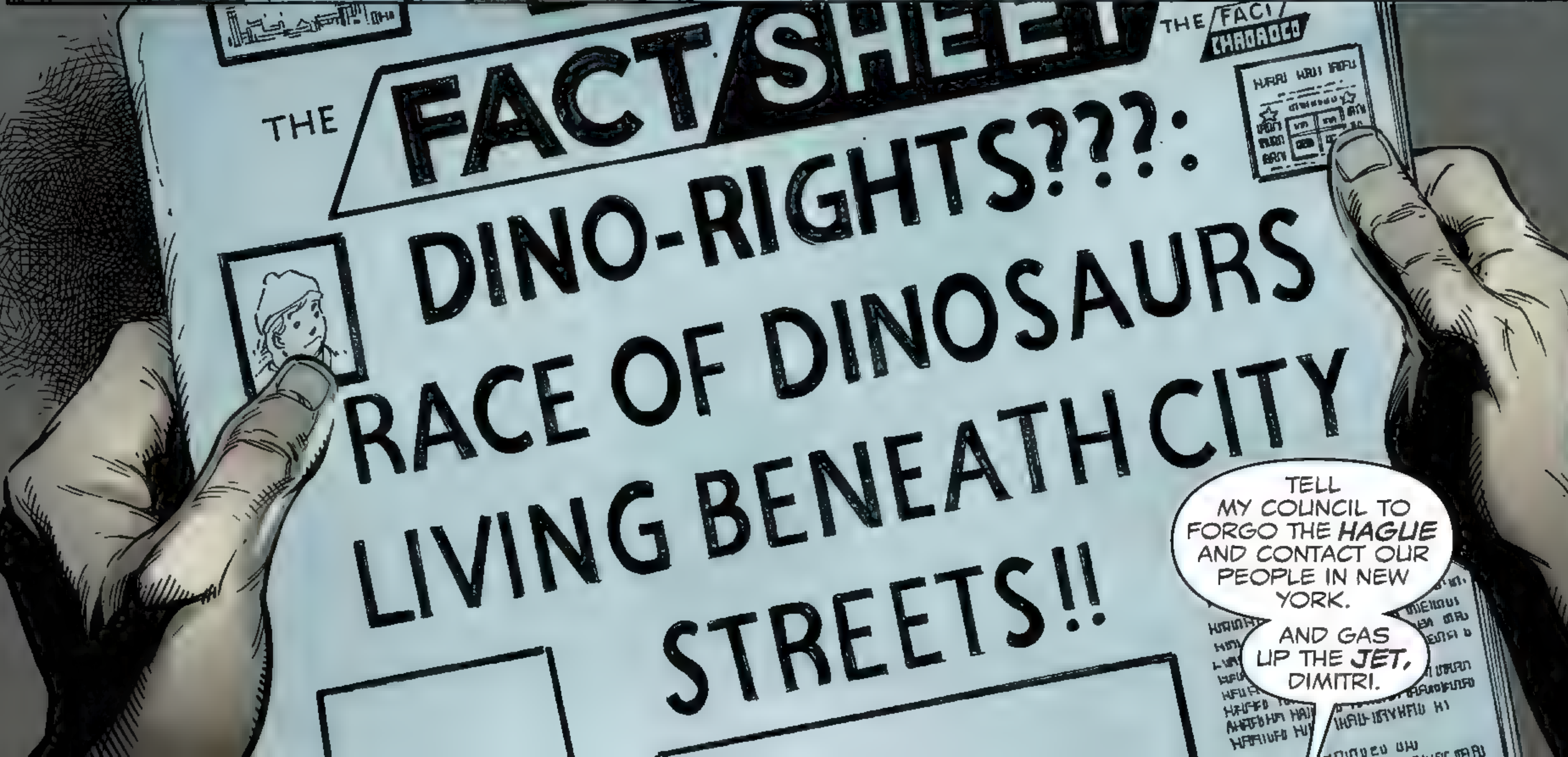
WHAT DO YOU HAVE FOR ME THIS WEEK IN TERMS OF A **CONTEST**?



WELL, SIR...I...

QUIET, DIMITRI. IS THIS--

THIS IS PERFECT.



TELL MY COUNCIL TO FORGO THE HAGUE AND CONTACT OUR PEOPLE IN NEW YORK.

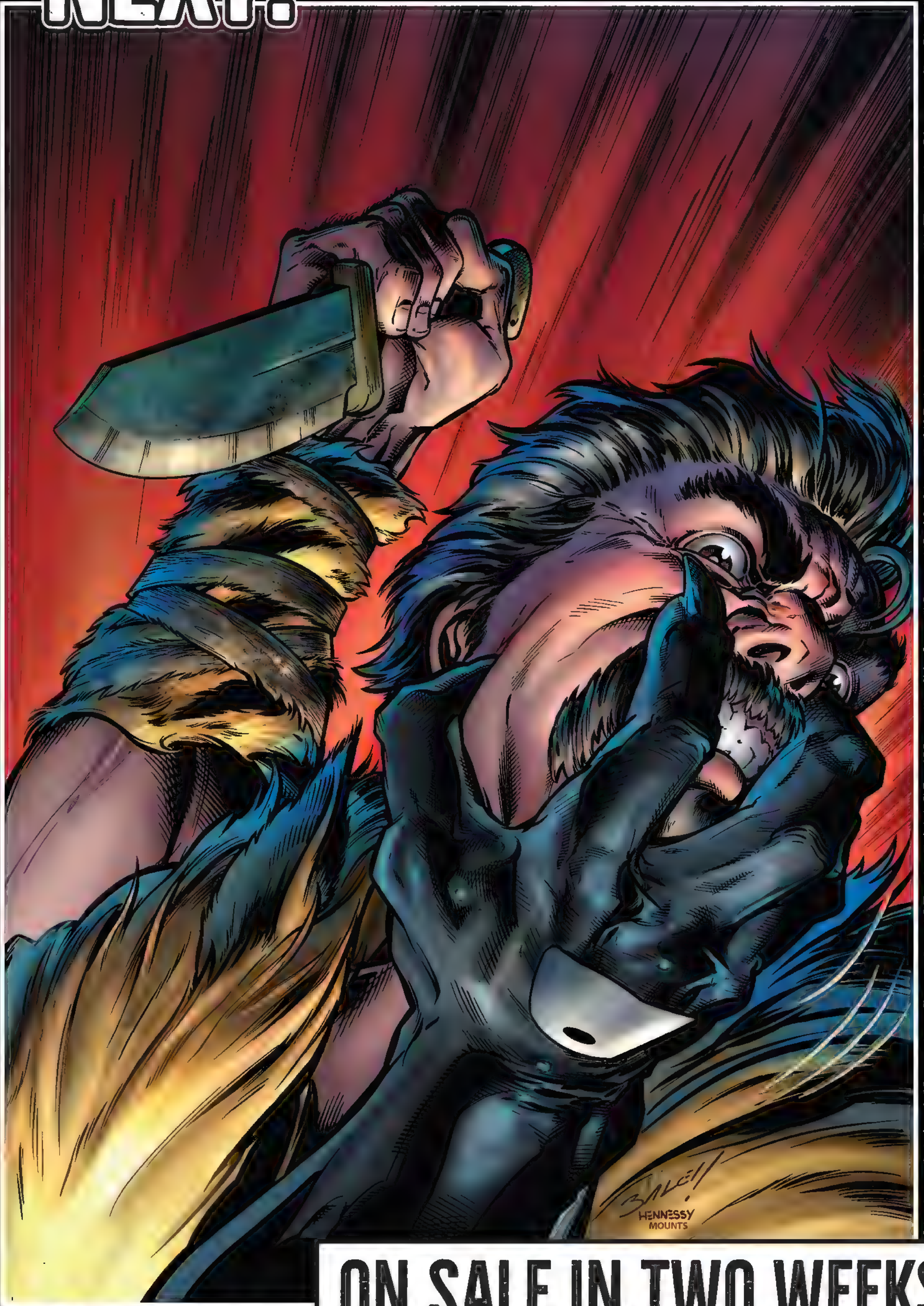
AND GAS UP THE **JET**, DIMITRI.



I'M
GOING ON A
HUNT.

TO BE CONTINUED...

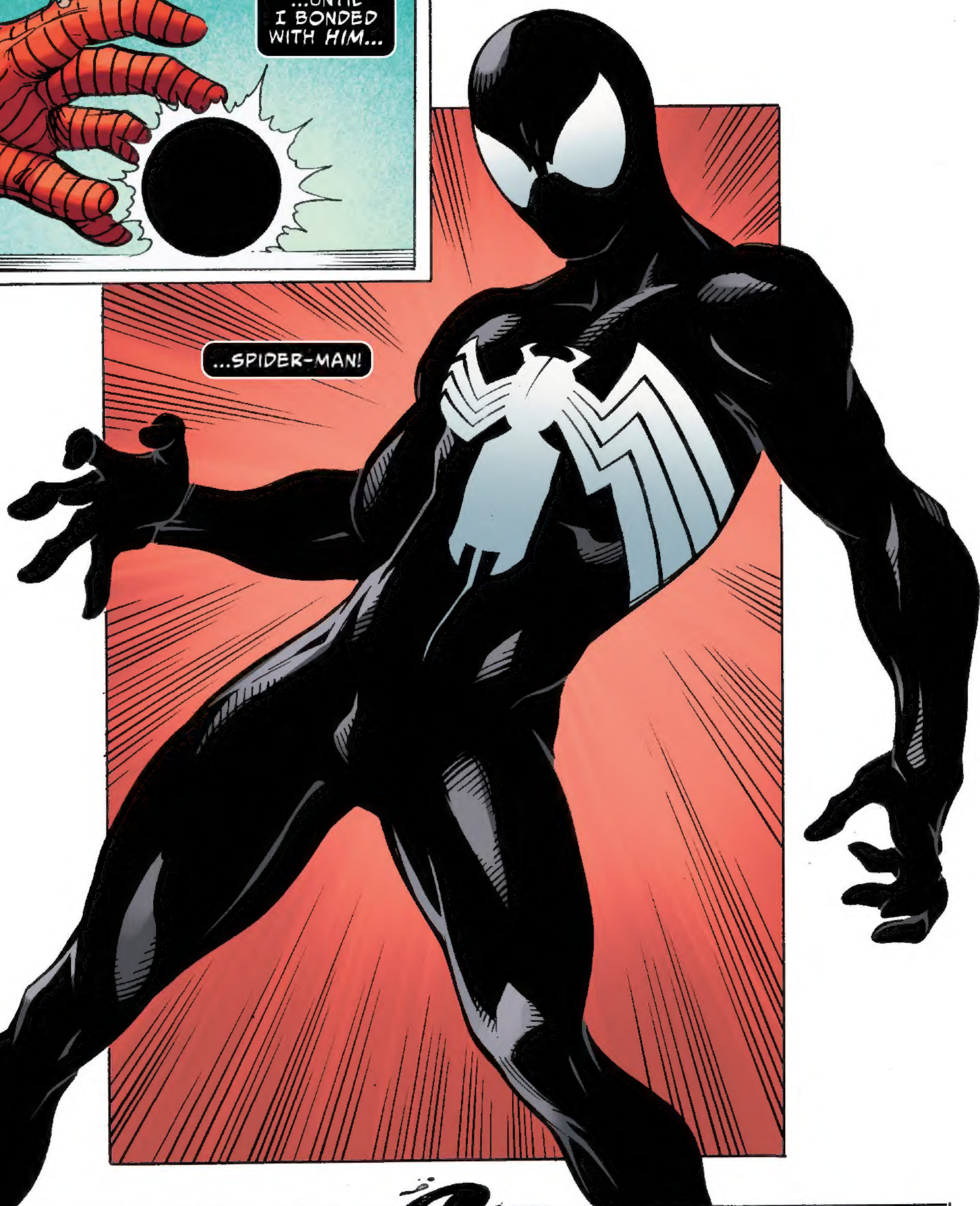
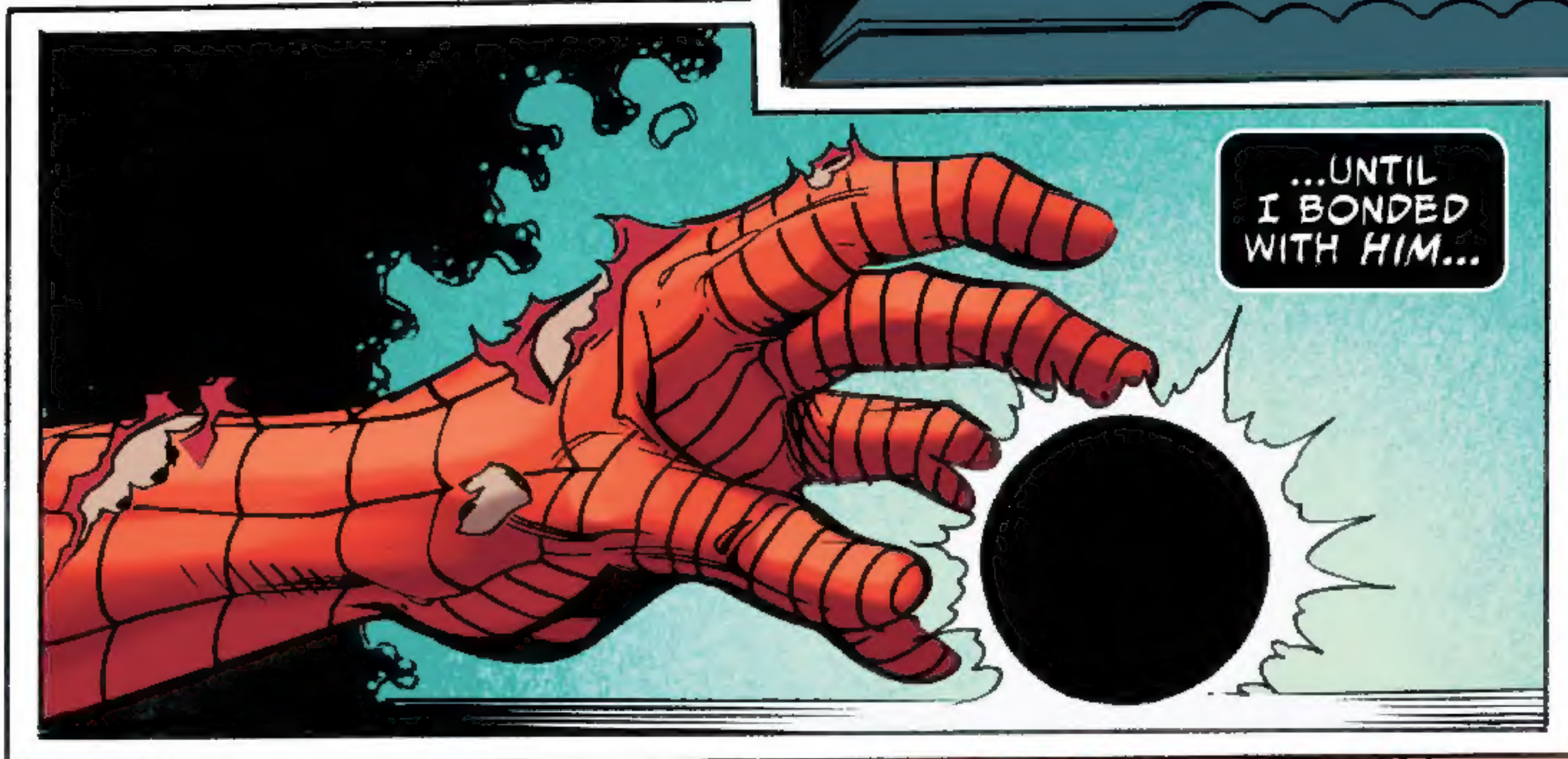
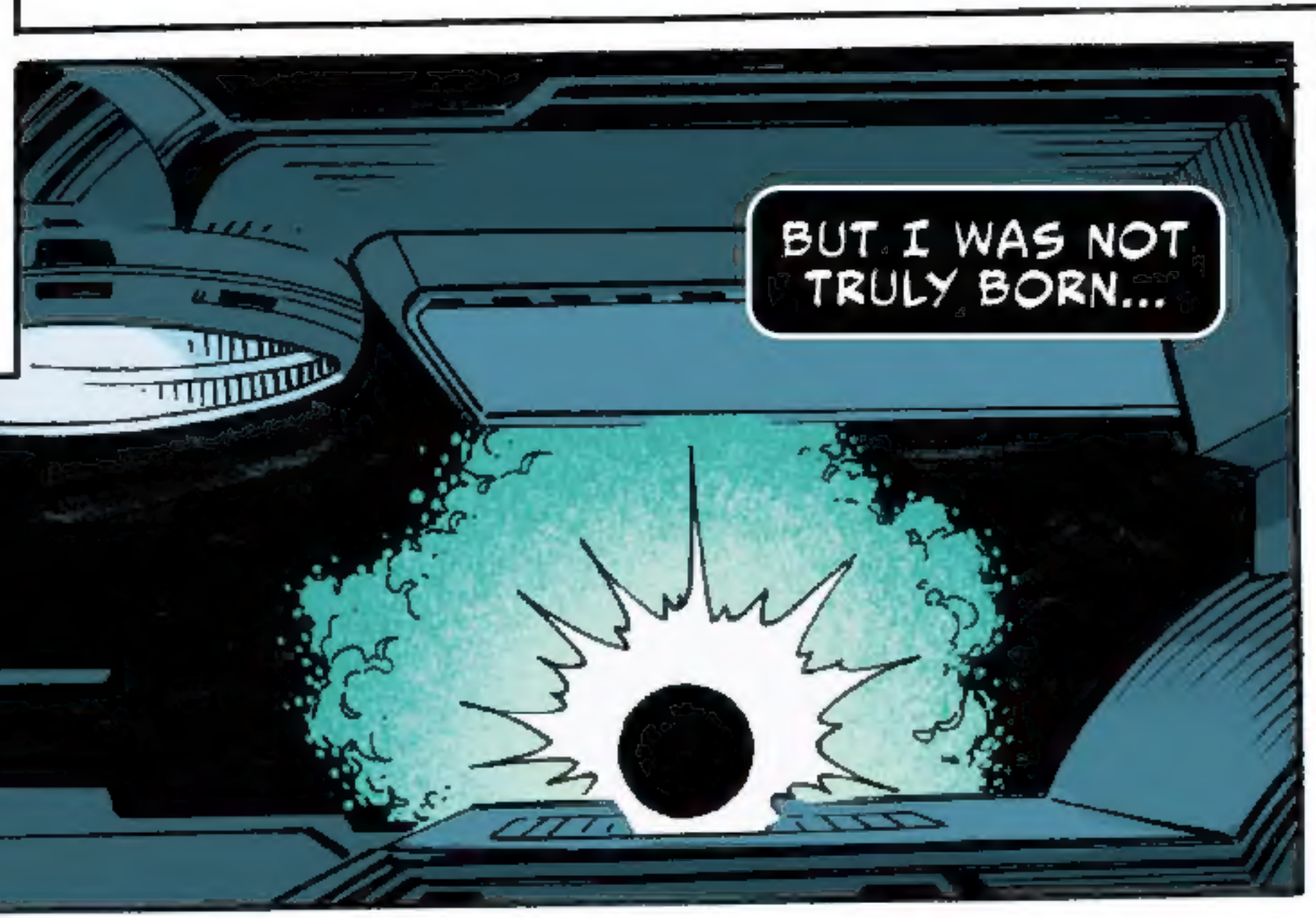
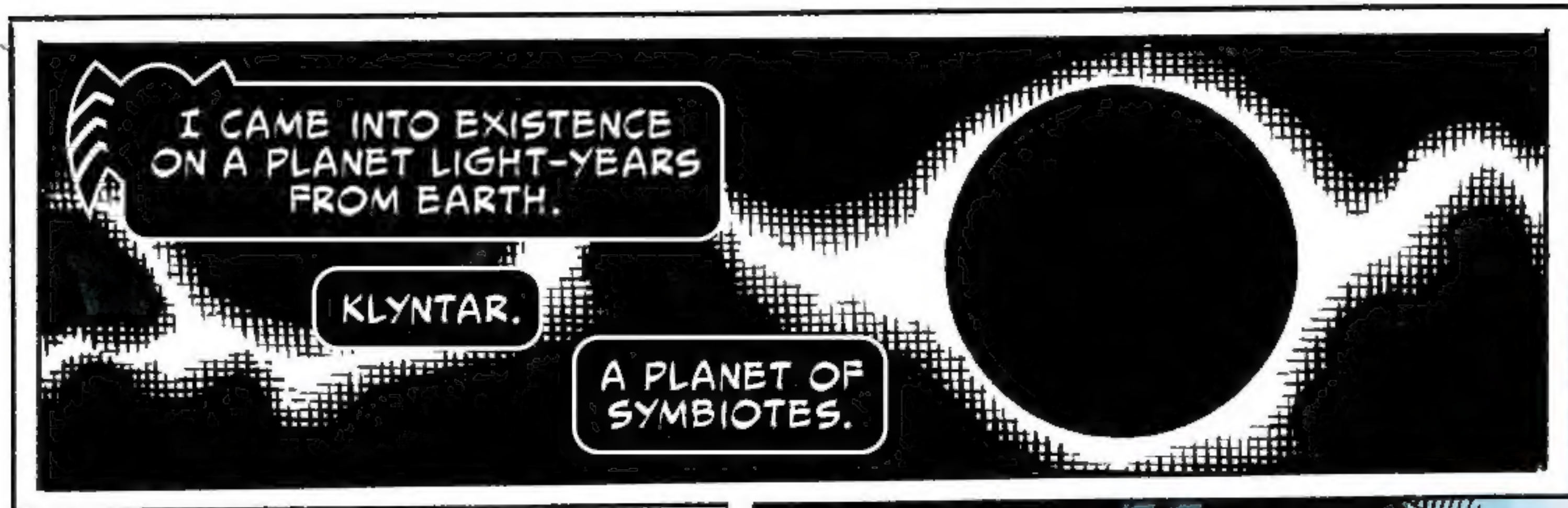
NEXT:




ON SALE IN TWO WEEKS!

YOUR MIGHTY MARVEL LETTER COLUMN WILL RETURN NEXT ISSUE, TRUE BELIEVERS! IN THE MEANTIME, BE SURE TO WRITE TO SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM AND LET US KNOW HOW WE'RE DOING!

UNTIL THEN, TURN THE PAGE AND ENJOY A SPECIAL LOOK BACK AT THE ORIGINS OF THE WORLD'S MOST WICKED WEBSLINGER!






BUT OUR GENETIC
CODES MERGED,
GIVING ME ALL OF
SPIDER-MAN'S POWERS.


WITH THESE
ABILITIES, ALL
I NEEDED WAS
A HOST...



Three versions of the Venom symbiote are shown in the background. On the left, a large, muscular, grey and black Venom with a long, red tongue. In the center, a smaller, black and white Venom with a spider emblem on its chest. On the right, another large, grey and black Venom with a long, red tongue. They are all standing behind Spider-Man, who is in the center foreground, wearing his black and white suit with a spider emblem on the chest. He is holding a handgun in his right hand and a knife in his left hand. The background is a solid red color.

OVER THE YEARS,
I HAVE BONDED
WITH MANY SOULS...

...BUT NOW I'M
BACK WITH THE SOUL
THAT UNDERSTANDS
ME BEST...

Spider-Man is shown in a close-up, looking down at Venom. He has a serious expression. Venom is shown in a close-up, looking up at Spider-Man. He has a wide, toothy grin and his tongue is out. They are in a close embrace. The background is a solid yellow color.

...EDDIE
BROCK.

TOGETHER,
WE ARE ONE.
TOGETHER,
WE ARE...

VENOM

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JOHN DELL INKER
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VC'S CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER
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